

The Eagle's Eye

125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard



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SHOWING OUR TRUE COLORS



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Cover/Backcover Design....

Cover: Some pilots are authorized to wear the American flag patch on their flight suits. Authorization to wear the patch is given by the base commander.

Backcover: Beside his Apollo 16 module, a buoyant John Young salutes a flag rigged with metal tubes at the top and side to help simulate a breezy look in the windless environment.

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Commander's Column

By Col. James A. Firth
125th Fighter Wing Commander

On behalf of the Wing, I hope everyone had a happy, meaningful and restful holiday season. Hopefully, shopping for Christmas presents was less painful than preparing for a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI)!

I encourage all to take a moment to slow down during this time of year by enjoying family and friends, contemplating the life we lead, appreciating all the blessings each of us enjoy, and most of all, savoring what it means to be an American.

The quality of the people in our Wing is something very special. I think each of us is impressed and humbled at times by the dedication, the sense of service above self, the commitment to excellence and the simple goodness we see in our fellow members of the 125th Fighter Wing.

During the December UTA formation, I commented on the pride I felt when I went by the chapel to see how Operation Christmas Stocking was progressing and witnessed the incredible generosity of our people.

This year our Wing donated more than 1500 gifts and approximately \$2,500 to the Department of Children and Families.

I would also like to say 'thanks' to our Chaplain, Lt. Col. Steve Thompson, and his staff for all of the hard work they put in this year organizing this year's gift collection.

It is an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with the simply superb men and women of the 125th Fighter Wing in such an important and noble cause.

On a more somber note, although it may be hard to really see it at times, we must be aware that currently there are enemies of our country that are working hard to prepare to further their goals by spreading fear in many areas of the world.

Recently, our Wing was asked to provide Gov. Jeb Bush with some specific details of

how we've contributed to the war on terrorism.

We've had members of security forces, communications, operations, civil engineering, personnel and finance deployed all over the world, as well as throughout the United States in support of the war.

We all face some tough times ahead that will demand the very best of each of us.

As I write this article, I am returning from a vacation to Hawaii, where yesterday I visited the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor, where over 2400 U.S. sailors and soldiers lost their lives, and the United States was propelled into World War II.

Although this new type of war looks different from past wars, to succeed will take the same type of attitude, determination and tenacity from each of us that carried American soldiers to success in the skies over Midway and on the beaches of Normandy.

"...to succeed will take the same type of attitude, determination and tenacity from each of us that carried American soldiers to success in the skies over Midway and on the beaches of Normandy."

The next step in our own role in contributing to the global war against terrorism is the training we will undergo as a Wing during the months of January and

February.

We've worked hard to ensure everyone deploying will be well prepared for any tasking they may face overseas.

Also, I realize the schedule driven by the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, and preparation for possible combat operations, as well as the deployment itself, will place a large demand on virtually every one of us, especially our families.

I have always felt outstanding people can handle the toughest challenges if they understand and expect these demands.

I think each of us feels this is one of the times in the history of the United States when we need to be prepared to be tough and to fill the shoes of those who came before us.



Cheney speech offers praise, raise and firm warning for Iraq



Photo by Staff Sgt. Darin Overstreet

Vice President Richard Cheney delivering a presentation to the leadership of the Air National Guard at the Air National Guard Senior Leadership 2002 Conference. The conference was hosted by the 140th Wing from Buckley Air Force Base and held in Denver, Colorado.

By Master Sgt. Deb Smith

Headquarters Colorado Air National Guard

The best tools, the best training and the best support.

Vice President Dick Cheney told National Guard leaders at the 2002 Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference in Denver that the best is what the men and women of the armed forces deserve.

Cheney told an estimated 1,200 Air National Guard leaders from across the country that he is proud of the job the military has done and that national defense will continue to be a top priority. He backed that statement with the news of legislation, as well as an official pay raise.

"President Bush has signed into law the most significant increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan lived in the White House and today, he will sign into law a pay raise for every member of the military," said Cheney. "We believe you deserve it."

Cheney thanked members of the Air National Guard for their service and characterized their role in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001 as remarkable.

"You have assumed an astonishing portion of the military missions in Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom," said Cheney.

According to Cheney, approximately 11,000 of the 60,000 American troops deployed around the world are mobilized and volunteer members of the Air National Guard. These Guardsmen are flying over three quarters of the combat air patrols that protect the United States mainland, delivering 40 percent of the airlift capacity in Afghanistan and 42 percent of the fighter aircraft used by the Air Expeditionary Forces.

Speaking just days before the Dec. 8 deadline set by the United Nations Security Council for Iraq to disarm, Cheney warned leaders that in the fight against global terror, the battle must be taken to the enemy and that the end solution will most likely not be a treaty.

"Cheney's speech left no doubt in my mind that the Bush administration is resolute in its determination to ensure Iraq complies with the order to disarm," said Lt. Col. David Thomas, 125th Military Support Flight commander.

Cheney added that the conflict can only end with their (weapons of mass destruction) complete and utter destruction, and a victory for the United States and the cause of freedom.

"A group like al Qaeda cannot be deterred or placated or reasoned with at a conference table," said Cheney.

According to Cheney, a large portion of that path of action will come in the form of strong support from Washington to properly equip the nation's armed forces.

"President Bush has often spoken of how America can keep the peace by redefining war on our terms. That means that our military — active duty, National Guard and Reserves — must have every tool to answer any threat that may emerge against us," said Cheney.

Promotions: Moving up the ladder

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs



To Airman:
6 months time-in-grade as E-1
Time-in-grade begins when member enters IADT



To Airman 1st Class:
3-level in Primary AFSC
6 months time-in-grade
6 months satisfactory service
Time-in-grade begins when member enters IADT



To Senior Airman:
3-level in Primary AFSC
6 months time-in-grade as E-3
6 months satisfactory service
Time-in-grade begins when member enters IADT



To Staff Sergeant:
5-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
4 years satisfactory service and completion of Airman Leadership School (in residence or correspondence)



To Technical Sergeant:
7-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
6 years satisfactory



To Master Sergeant:
7-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
9 years satisfactory service
Assigned to MSgt. slot
AGR-12 months retainability
DSG-24 months retainability



To Senior Master Sergeant:
7-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
13 years satisfactory service
Assigned to SMSgt. slot
Completion of Senior NCO academy (in-residence or correspondence)
24 months retainability



To Chief Master Sergeant
9-level in AFSC
24 months time-in-grade
17 years enlisted service
Assigned to CMSgt. slot



The Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act (ROPMA) took effect in 1996. Officers are promoted to first lieutenant after two years of commissioned service--with unit and wing commanders' approval. Under ROPMA there are two types of boards— mandatory and position vacancy. All officers must meet the mandatory board when eligible. Position vacancy is reserved for top performers who are recommended by the wing commander. There must also be a vacancy in the AFSC. For officer promotion purposes, there is a vacancy if the number of officers authorized in that grade and AFSC is more than the number assigned. When the promotion board meets, your "promotion folder" is reviewed by a panel of officers. The promotion folder contains a promotion brief, your OPR's, decoration citations, a personal letter to the board if you choose to write one, and a Promotion Recommendation Form, written by your senior rater, if required. Boards requiring PRFs are all PV boards and mandatory boards to the grades of lieutenant colonel and above.

Minimum eligibility requirements for meeting Position Vacancy boards are:

To Grade	Time in Grade
Captain	2 years
Major	4 years
Lt.Col.	4 years

Minimum eligibility requirements for meeting mandatory promotion boards are:

To Grade	Time in Grade	Total Service
Captain	4 years	7 years
Major	7 years	12.5 years
Lt.Col.	7 years	19.5 years
Colonel	3 years	N/A

Possible War with Iraq: A 'Just War'?

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson
125th Fighter Wing Chaplain

The Armed Forces of United States may soon go to war with Iraq. Opinions for and against this action vary from "nuke'em" to "give peace a chance" and everything in between. These positions seem to spring from both principle and pragmatic concerns. A good question for those of us who could play significant roles in the possible conflict might be, "Is war with Iraq morally justified?" A brief review of St. Augustine's 'Just War' theory may help answer that question.

Saint Augustine of Hippo lived during the turn of the fifth century AD. He was one of Christianity's first systematic theologians. Among his many contributions to our understanding of the Christian faith is the concept of the Just War and its seven characteristics (see box below).

The concept of a so called Just War is admittedly curious if not questionable. Pacifists who abhor violence find it inconceivable to embrace the thought of violence in its most intense expression. Conversely, those who accept war, reluctantly or otherwise, as a legitimate means of resolving conflicts harbor significant suspicions as well.

Saint Augustine did not pretend to eliminate the problem of war nor all of our questions concerning it. His goals were for

nations to wage war only as a last resort and only as a means of establishing a better peace for all. His guidelines have assisted the efforts of well intentioned leaders for the past 1600 years to conduct themselves more honorably during conflicts and to bring about peaceful resolutions at their conclusions. All wars must end. The questions are when, how and what will things look like after it's over.

A survey of our relationship with Iraq over the past 10 years dismisses every reasonable hope that the Iraqi leadership will change its stripes or that inspections will be any more successful in the future than they have been in the past. Our country is imminently in danger as a result of the Iraqi government's support of terrorists' activities against the United States, our allies and to the detriment of its own people. We have the means and restraint to improve the personal and political conditions of those who live in Iraq and the surrounding nations.

Soldiers assume the greater responsibility when war drums begin to beat. They have the most to lose and reluctantly, though dutifully, step to the front lines of the conflict. Chaplains by their very nature abhor war and its destructions. However, if this conflict occurs, it will fall within the historical parameters that identify a justified effort to reduce hostilities and affect positive changes for the United States, our allies, Iraq and the entire Middle East region.



Saint Augustine's Characteristics of a 'Just War'

- It is waged only as a last resort after all non-violent means have been exhausted.
- It is waged only by legitimate authorities and not individuals with self serving motives.
- It is fought only to redress a wrong suffered.
- There is a reasonable chance of success. Innocents must not suffer for a lost cause.
- Its ultimate goal must be to re-establish the peace.
- Violence must be used proportionate to that which is necessary to accomplish objectives. Unnecessary destruction must be avoided.
- Combatants must discriminate between enemy combatants and non-combatants. Civilians are never legitimate targets.

Operations Security *Chaplain's* (OPSEC)

By Maj. Steven R. Hilsdon
125th Fighter Wing OPSEC Officer

Why do you need OPSEC Training?

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law a document known as National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) 298. NSDD 298 required that all executive departments and agencies with national security missions, and the contractors that support them, establish OPSEC programs. The directive also created the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS) to direct and coordinate this task. The IOSS is at the heart of the operations security effort.

Why should we use OPSEC?

OPSEC guarantees four fundamentals. It ensures mission effectiveness, protects critical information, protects integrity of the mission and maintains the element of surprise.

Ensuring mission effectiveness and protecting the integrity of the mission relate directly to any organization's primary goal - to get the job done. Maintaining the element of surprise is usually thought of in combat terms, but has many applications in everyday life. Protecting critical information allows you to do all of these things.

OPSEC protects the mission. It looks at critical information, threat, vulnerabilities, risk, and countermeasures from both the friendly and adversary perspectives.

People normally view things from their own perspective, so looking at things from the friendly perspective is not hard to do. Looking at yourself through the eyes of the adversary makes OPSEC unusual.

What is the goal of OPSEC?

The goal of OPSEC is to control information about your capabilities and intentions in order to keep them from being exploited by your

The goal of OPSEC is to control information about your capabilities and intentions in order to keep them from being exploited by your adversary.



adversary.

The OPSEC process provides you with the big picture. It is a systematic process that considers the mission and the requirements for mission success. It uses an analytic methodology for assessing critical information, threat, vulnerabilities, risk, and countermeasures associated with the mission.

Practicing good OPSEC protects your information and your game plan by allowing you to identify information that is critical to your mission, focus on the adversary, analyze vulnerabilities and indicators, assess the risk to your organization and

develop and apply countermeasures.

What is the bottom line?

Remember, the adversary doesn't need just classified information; the disclosure of certain types of unclassified information can be just as damaging to your operation. We are involved in a new type of war - a war for information. If an adversary has knowledge regarding your capabilities, interests, intentions, plans, or procedures, then he has an opportunity to exploit your vulnerabilities.

Operation Christmas Stocking 2002



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

*By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson
125th Fighter Wing Chaplain*

Here Comes the Air National Guard!

Here is a riddle: When does pushing carts and hand trucks down long hallways become a highlight of my year? The answer is when I am helping deliver your Christmas gifts to abandoned, neglected and abused children. I have enjoyed the wonderful privilege for the past ten years of helping take your gifts to the Children and Families Services headquarters located along the Arlington Expressway in order that they may be distributed to the foster parents who are working with those precious children.

As I push carts overflowing with toys and bikes to their designated staging area, I can't help but think about those foster parents who will pick them up for their children with such a sense of relief. Your generosity ensures that they will not have to apologize to their kids for the lack of many, or even the lack of any, Christmas presents for them under their trees on Christmas morning. They appreciate you so much and so do I.

I especially think about those children who will wake up to at least a few moments of joy in what is often for them a dreary life. I

remember my children when they were little and how their eyes would light up as they surveyed their presents. I imagine how these children will experience that same excitement on Christmas morning when they ride their bikes and skateboards, play with their dolls, shoot their new basketballs or cook delicious meals on their pretend stoves and ovens.

I think about 10, 15 and 20 years from now and how these children will realize that those gifts came from someone whom they will never meet and yet who cared about them nonetheless.

They in turn will be impressed and inspired to become worthy of your kindness and become caring, responsible citizens in spite of their horrible past.

The Bible reminds us in Hebrews 6:10 "God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints."

What a terrific investment in today, the future and eternity!

This year I was blessed with an additional special experience.

Continued...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

A child in foster care pushes a cart loaded with gifts to be distributed to needy families in the Jacksonville area. The Department of Children & Families, a state agency charged with assisting abused and neglected children, collects and distributes the donated gifts annually.

125th members, others learn defense tactics

*By Senior Airman Stephen D. Hudson
Florida National Guard Public Affairs*

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – More than 40 Florida National Guard soldiers and airmen to include members of the 125th Fighter Wing, underwent a grueling two-day class Dec. 11-12 to learn defensive tactics as an alternative to the use of deadly force.

The course included defending against an unarmed attacker and against an attack with a knife or pistol.

"The purpose of the training was to enhance the soldier's and airmen's ability to react to different situations," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Warren Gamache, who also participated in the two-day class.

According to Gamache, the National Guard wanted a course to teach soldiers and airmen performing a force protection mission a way to disarm a situation without deadly force. It was also important that the class be compatible for Air National Guard officers and airmen who may be at a conference at a major city or deployed overseas.

Mike Mackin, who has been studying martial arts since 1966 and teaching since 1989, was approached by the Guard because of his experience in teaching law enforcement officers, and the Marine security detail at the

Master Sgt. Maxie M. Mullis, Staff Sgt. Marilyn A. Diller and I (along with some other helpers) could not help but make a lot of noise with our carts as we methodically plodded with your gifts down those tile floored halls.

About midway down the first hall on on first trip I heard one of the office workers gleefully exclaim...

"Here comes the Air National Guard!" I thought that was so neat.

The very words that our enemies fear to hear, "Here comes the Air National Guard," were the same words that our needy friends embraced with grateful anticipation.

Bad guys, "Look out! ... Here comes the Air National Guard."

Children, "Look up! ... Here comes the Air National Guard."



Photo by Specialist Thomas Kielbasa

U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India.

"I designed the program around the needs of the organization (the Guard)," Mackin said. "Once the mission was defined then we tailored the training."

Mackin and four other instructors took the students through a series of basic steps to teach the students how to defend themselves during a hostile encounter.

To the soldiers and airmen who took the class, it was a success. Technical Sgt. Sherri Nelson, a personnel specialist with Headquarters FLANG who served on active duty in Security Forces, said the training was a flashback to training the cops received. "The training was very beneficial and an excellent training tool," said Nelson. "I would do it again."



Fighting the winter blahs

Dealing with Seasonal Affective Disorder

*1Lt Keshan Gainey
Health Service Administrator
125th Medical Squadron*

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is different from the winter blahs.

Although many people may experience cabin fever or perhaps eat and sleep more during the winter months, SAD goes well beyond those feelings and symptoms.

The condition is a type of depressive disorder and, if diagnosed with SAD, winter's short days and long nights may bring crying spells, lethargy, fatigue, craving for sweets and starches, headaches and sleeping problems.

It affects about one in 20 American adults and usually begins in adolescence or during the young adult years.

Approximately 75 percent of people diagnosed with SAD are women.

Some people outgrow it, but for others it

may last a lifetime. What causes SAD is unknown and there is no known prevention.

The disorder seems more likely to affect people who live in higher latitudes. Yet, SAD can also occur in people who live in middle or lower latitudes. Fighting SAD involves you and your doctor taking a variety of approaches.

Signs and Symptoms

SAD is a cyclic, seasonal condition. The signs and symptoms of SAD usually appear only during the winter. You are free of these symptoms during spring and summer.

If you have been through two annual cycles with the following signs and symptoms during the winter, you may have SAD:

Depression

Loss of energy

Anxiety

Continued....

*Irritability
Headaches
Increased sleep
Loss of interest in sex
Overeating, especially high carbohydrate foods
Weight gain
Difficulty concentrating/processing information*

Treatments

*Increase amount of light in home
Walk out doors on sunny days
Winter vacation in a sunny location*

*Exercise regularly
Light therapy
Psychotherapy
Medication (Paxil, Prozac, Zoloft)*

Although light therapy is uniquely effective for winter depressive episodes, treatment planning for patients with SAD should include consideration of all treatment options available, including somatic and psychosocial treatments.

For more information, visit the National Mental Health Association at www.nmha.org.

NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE 125TH

Lieutenant Col.'s Scott K. Stacy and James O. Eifert stepped into new leadership positions here at the Wing October 2002.

Stacy, who was formerly the 125th Logistics Squadron commander, became the Wing vice commander after Col. Jeanette B. Booth left the position in August 2002 to become the FANG Headquarters executive support staff officer. As vice commander and second in command, Stacy will be responsible for providing manpower, equipment and training for the Wing.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee O. Tucker

Lt. Col. James O. Eifert



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Lt. Col. Scott K. Stacy

Eifert became the commander of the 125th Operations Group in October 2002, taking the place of Col. Alan K. Rutherford who is now the Director of Operations at FANG Headquarters.

Before taking command, Eifert served as 159th Fighter Squadron operations officer since 1997.

Eifert assumes responsibilities for directing and monitoring programs that include fighter squadron operations, unit training, intelligence, standardization/evaluation, plans and life support, C-130 fighter support aircraft, and C-26 counterdrug operations.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee O. Tucker

The American flag flies above the Alaska state flag in Kodiak, Alaska during the 114th Combat Communications Squadron deployment to test Ballistic Missile Range System Technology (BMRST) at the Kodiak Launch Complex. When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

The Flag hangs flat against the balcony of a home located in Jacksonville, Fla. When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left.

Showing Our True Colors

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Staff Sgt. Lee O. Tucker
125th Communications Flight

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been the symbol of our nation's strength and unity. It's been a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens. And, it has been a prominent icon in our national history...



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Above: A group of high school students re-enact the scene of the famous National Iwo Jima Memorial Monument during half-time of the Gator Bowl Jan. 1. at Alltel Stadium. It is the only flag raising monument in the United States specifically dedicated to the memory of the Americans killed at Iwo Jima, erected by survivors of the battle. Symbolically, it has become a tribute to all those who sacrificed, fought and died in World War II.

Left: The Flag's image is emblazoned on the grill of a semi tractor trailer. This photo, captured in the reflection from a right-side door mirror, was taken shortly after Sept. 11. This was one example of the increased display of pride shown by Americans after an attack on their freedom.

In brief...

Chief's Corner

Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wisniewski

125th Fighter Wing Command Chief

Our operations tempo and taskings in 2002 were high and as always, the 125th stood up to the challenges and met them all.

As we move into 2003, our plate is full once again. We already have scheduled our AEF and ECS deployments, major aircraft modification, our normal training and alert commitments and a Unit Compliance Inspection, just to name a few.

Add to that, there are the unknown battles that we may have to fight as we continue our war on terrorism.

This war on terrorism is not one we asked for or wanted. We have a president who understands that candle light vigils and wearing yellow ribbons will not stop these people.

This is an enemy that will not quit or go away, will not listen to reason or be swayed by world opinion.

This is an enemy that will have to be fought, if not by us then by our children, if not by our children then by theirs.

This is the time and we are the ones to fight this war and defeat this enemy.

What will we see in 2003 and beyond is not for us to know.

I do know for sure that the United States military and the members of the 125th Fighter Wing in particular will do whatever is necessary to defend our country and its people.

We have prepared and we are ready to do our part in the defense of freedom anywhere in the world.

I am extremely proud to be part of this unit and to serve along side all of you.

I am looking forward to the opportunities this new year brings for us once again to show why we are the finest Wing in the world.

Simple security measures help deter terrorists

Technical Sgt. Mark J. Perry and Master Sgt. Brian M. Blaquiére, 125th Fighter Wing Antiterrorism Coordinators

The 125th Fighter Wing Force Protection Operations Branch is embarking on a new initiative of sending out monthly guidance intended to keep Florida Guard Members up-to-date about anti-terrorism issues.

Monthly articles such as the following will provide information from law enforcement and military sources about current security trends.

Since 9/11, a wide range of theft has occurred to include: military uniforms, identification, equipment, weapons, vehicles, military license plates and installation vehicle decals (AF Form 2220).

According to Paul Purcell of Soldiers for the Truth, "This has not been happening (decals stolen) in one particular location." Purcell added that many of the decals were stolen from personally owned vehicles.

Purcell attributed the recent thefts to two possible theories. He identified the first as "simple anti-military and/or anti-impending war vandalism." A second and more urgent theory involves al-Qaida or other terror groups who "would collect

these decals in order to gain admission to military facilities."

Although scraped off decals usually come off in pieces or torn, if time permits, the decals can be steamed off and placed on another vehicle without much trouble. This is why checking ID's at military facilities is crucial.

Many of the decals were stolen while the vehicles were left unattended for extended periods of time and from different locations to include airports, malls and used car lots.

Removing decals before selling vehicles, ensuring we let security forces or the military police know when vehicles are sold and paying close attention to the location of vehicles when unattended will minimize the chances of decals falling into the wrong hands.

If a decal theft does occur, prompt and accurate reporting may stop a harmful chain of events.

Many of us leave valuables visible in our vehicles.

Uniforms and identifications do not have a large monetary value, but in the wrong hands they can be priceless.

Keeping these items as well as laptops, cell phones, pagers and military correspondents out of sight in the vehicle is important. A crime must have four things: a victim, intent, capability and opportunity. Securing valuables eliminates the victim and opportunity.

Each case alone may not seem disturbing.

Yet, because attempts are being made to gain illegal access to our installations one way or another, we should do everything in our power to keep the terrorist movement at the greatest standoff distance possible.

Operation FIT keeps families in touch

Ms. Beth Eifert
125th Fighter Wing Family Readiness
Coordinator

We missed those of you who were unable to join us for the Family Readiness Briefing Dec. 8. It was a town meeting of sorts, during which family members learned facts about deployments from a variety of informative speakers, beginning with our very own Wing commander, Col. James A. Firth.

One of the items endorsed by Firth is Operation F.I.T. (Families in Touch), the newest preparedness tool offered through the 125th Family Readiness office. Operation F.I.T. provides families a communication pathway to the Wing — and to each other.

The Wing provides e-mailed family readiness updates, especially during deployments. While it cannot convey sensitive information, it can supply basic information to those families that choose to be part of the network. Further, it offers an

opportunity to let us know how we can better serve your needs.

Operation FIT also creates informal family telephone rosters for any shop or squadron that requests them. These rosters are managed by the families and offer a support network during deployments or activations. This network helps to quickly disseminate unexpected changes to deployment schedules, squelch rumors, and provide communication and comfort to participating families.

For the rosters to be effective, we need a Spouse Contact Point (SPC) for each area. The SPC establishes the information flow for their list and ensures that participating families in their unit have an updated list.

We currently have SCPs for the following areas: sheet metal shop, flight line and 159th Fighter Squadron.

If you are affiliated with these shops, please call me at 904-741-7027 for SCP contact information.

If your unit does not yet have an SCP, please consider taking the lead on this very important readiness endeavor.

Guard members can register their families for Operation F.I.T. by entering their information electronically at the Family Readiness site on the 125th intranet, or by calling Beth Eifert, 125th Family Readiness Coordinator at 741-7027, or TSgt. Jeffrey Warren, Family Readiness POC, at 741-7212.

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME

Major Thomas E. Herring plays with his son, 16-month-old Jackson Herring, while his wife Shannon attended the family readiness briefing held in December. The pilots briefing room served as a make-shift daycare center so that loved ones could attend the briefing in the dining facility.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee O. Tucker

From the cockpit...

Lt. Col. T. G. "Krazy" Kyrazis, II
125th Fighter Wing Safety Office

Four F-15 Eagles go over the crowd. You feel goose bumps as the fading vibration from the afterburners remains in your chest. The most visible sign of America's staggering airpower has just completed a fly-by, signaling the start of a football game, commemorating an inauguration or paying tribute to a fallen warrior. Whatever the reason for the fly-by, how the pilots managed to fly over right at the end of the national anthem, leaves you mesmerized, wondering how the pilots were able to be so accurate. The entire process for a successful fly-by is actually a little more complicated than one might think.

The planning for a fly over or 'fly-by' starts months before the event after the proper approvals are secured from the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs office (SAF/PA). Once the fly-by is approved by state Headquarters, the majority of the coordination is with the event manager. The most important tidbit of information is when they want the fly-by to occur. Usually, a fly-by coincides with the end of the National Anthem, or Taps, or a cannon barrage. In these cases, the event managers try to time these lead-in's beforehand, so they can coordinate the timing cues. Did you know that the average singer completes the National Anthem in 1:15? Or that others, when nervous, can finish it in as little as 46 seconds? Are you starting to get the picture? Timing is crucial.

The next major item to be resolved is the direction of the fly-by. This dictates where the aircraft must hold prior to starting their run-in, a process that must be coordinated with the local FAA and Approach Control. Fly-by's in the Orlando, Fla., create havoc with inbound and outbound flights to the International Airport. Holding prior to the fly-by is usually out of sight of the audience, so that means about 10 miles

away from the location. However, if that puts you near an approach corridor to an airfield, you'll have to move further away, which means you'll need longer to get to the actual fly-by location. If you're holding 18 miles away and cruising around 360 knots, it'll take exactly three minutes to arrive overhead. But if the event is ahead of schedule and need you to get there sooner, going 420 knots will get you there in 2:34. Much faster than that and the FAA starts getting mad (how do you spell V-I-O-L-A-T-I-O-N?), but more importantly, the Eagle controls start getting sensitive above those speeds, making it hard for your wingmen to stay in position.

The last essential component for a fly-by is the Ground Forward Air Controller (FAC). These guys are actually used in combat to talk to airborne pilots just arriving at the battlefield over actual targets. For fly-by purposes, the Ground FAC relays all information that will affect the fly-by. These could be delays to the proposed time-over-target or any last minute changes. Now that you have the background information, are you ready for an actual fly-by?

"...Approach, Fang One is with you en-route to holding 15 miles south." The three other aircraft in your flight are in a route formation, each about 50 feet apart. They are spending most of their time watching you to stay in the correct position.

"Fang One, Approach, Negative. New active runway in use, you need to vector two-seven-zero."

"Approach, we would like to proceed southbound to hold for the fly-by. Desired run-in is south-to-north."

"Fang One, we're unable at this time, continue two-seven-zero heading. Expect south-bound turn in 10 miles."

"HEY FAC! This is Fang one"

"Go ahead Fang One, FAC here."

"We got some problems. Approach has changed runways, and they're vectoring us west at this time. Confirm we're still eight minutes until push time."

"That's affirmative. I show 1315:24 now, expect the three minute push call at 1324."

"Fang One, Approach, you're cleared left turn to one-eight-zero heading, descend and maintain 2000 feet."

"Approach, Fang copies. We'd like to hold there until 13:24, then proceed northbound and descend to 1000 feet."

"Fang One, we'll try to work a gap in the arrival flow for you at that time."

The other flight members have time to occasionally look at their watches and their navigation systems to see if you're actually going to make this work



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

continued...

out. Once the run in starts, they'll be staring only at you as they close into a tight formation. It'll be all up to you at that point.

"FANG One, FAC! PUSH NOW, PUSH NOW! They're early!"

S#@!! One whole minute early. You were heading the wrong way in your hold, so you're going to have to make up some time.

"Approach, Fang One pushing north at this time."

"Understand you're pushing now?"

"A-firm. The show is early."

"Copy...Cessna 212C, break off your approach, vector North. You have a flight of four F-15 Eagles south of you 10 miles, northbound, fast moving."

You actually see the building up ahead that is the target, and the timing looks like it's actually going to work out. Your wingmen are settled in, their wingtips about 10 feet away from yours. 12 miles to go, 1:30 since you got the push call, still a little behind...

"FANG One, FAC! Break it off, break it off!"

Now what?!!

"Someone else just got up to say a few words...stand by!"

"Approach, Fang One, we're being told to break off the run-in. We need to turn back south immediately."

"Fang One, Approach, can you let us know when you really want to do that fly-by?"

Cessna 212C, if able you can continue that approach now, these F-15's..."

"FANG One, FAC! He just sat down, and they've started the National Anthem already. PUSH IT UP!"

Double S#@!! Your wingmen struggle to stay in position as you whip the formation back to the north in as tight a turn as you dare.

"Approach, Fang One. Disregard last. We are back northbound on our final run-in."

"Approach copies. [expletive deleted heard in background]"

There is no way you're going to be on time. 45 seconds to go, and they started the National Anthem one minute ago.

Oh well, at least let's make it look good...

You fly over the spot...(what are those little sparkles?)

"Fang One, FAC. That was perfect!"

??? No way.

"They threw in a fire-work volley at the end, and you past over right as it finished. Good job."

A little luck went our way today!...

So the next time you see a fly-by, thank the maintenance and crew chiefs who got the aircraft airborne, the wingmen for being in position (or the appropriate amount of grief if not), and the flight lead for doing his best to make the whole thing work out.

Smallpox vaccines to begin for service members

By Senior Airman Stephen D. Hudson
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

Since the anthrax scare of October 2001, the United States has begun to brace for a smallpox attack, and those precautions could mean inoculations for 500,000 American troops.

On Dec. 13, President Bush ordered smallpox vaccinations for military personnel, but what does that mean for members of the Florida National Guard?

The Department of Defense indicated that personnel will be immunized according to their military specialties, emergency responders and hospital workers will receive the vaccine first then those with "critical mission capabilities."

"We are waiting on further guidance on who will get the vaccine," Lt. Col. Bruce Cornelson, Deputy State Surgeon for the Florida Army National Guard, said. "Right now only high priority units like the 44th Civil Support Team will receive it."

Smallpox is a serious, contagious and sometimes fatal infectious disease with nearly 30 percent of the people who catch actually dying from it.

Many smallpox survivors are left with permanent scars over large portions of their body, especially the face.

Some are left blind.

After exposure it takes between seven to 17 days for smallpox symptoms to appear. Those symptoms can range from high fever, head and body aches, and some-

times vomiting. Afterward a rash develops and spreads to become raised bumps and pus-filled blisters that crust, scab and fall off after three weeks.

The smallpox vaccine is licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and is from the same stocks used before routine vaccinations stopped in the 1970s.

Though the vaccine is considered safe and effective the vaccination has some risks. There is a slight possibility of severe reactions in some people.

According to the Centers for Disease Control the people who should not receive the vaccine are pregnant women, individuals with weakened immune systems, and those with certain skin disorders.

News from HQ...

Priorities remain the same for 2003

By Brig. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr.
FLANG Commander

I want to thank all of our Guardsmen, their families, and their employers for another year of outstanding service to our state and nation.

In 2002, the Florida Air Guard was engaged in the defense of our nation at a level never before achieved.

The numbers were impressive, the performance was off the scale, and the level of involvement was historic.

The units of the Florida National Guard assumed an astonishing portion of our military missions since Sept. 11th, 2001.

Of the 11,000 Air National Guardsmen nationwide that were activated and still serve at home and overseas.

Florida activated over 500 of our people.

When the demands were the greatest, our strength increased, and our spirit of volunteerism was at its highest.

As Vice President Cheney stated at our Senior Leadership Conference in December, "you may not be full-time soldiers, but you are all full-time patriots."

The Florida Air National Guard plays a unique role in serving our state and nation and although we view 2002 as a high-water mark in that effort, 2003 will present even greater challenges.

Our three priorities remain unchanged.

Our organization will stay focused on job number one: our **mission**. Concurrently, we will remain proactive in controlling our future through the **transformation** process.

Finally, we will continue to invest in the future leadership of our **people**.

All three of these critical areas will require our best efforts if we are to be successful in the future.

Our process will be what I refer to as the 3M approach: **mission**, **models** and **mirror**.

First and foremost, we will instill into every Florida Air National Guardsman the sense of individual purpose in all of our diverse **missions**.

Each person must understand their mission and be prepared for their role in their unit's success.

Second, we will continue to look around us and **model** ourselves after organizations that are continuously successful.

Those groups may be military, civilian, present today or a part of history.

They are recognizable and, by virtue of their success, are role models for our own efforts.



Third, we will look at ourselves honestly and often to evaluate our progress as though we are gazing into the **mirror**.

We must always remain focused on our core values and always remember who we are and what we represent.

We are citizen airmen, rich in heritage, and capable of making tremendous contributions to the defense of this nation.

At no other time in our lifetime has the cause of freedom been so clear.

You serve these United States with commitment, dedication, and determination.

You assist your neighbor in times of flood, fire, and storm and at the same time you have become part of the world's most feared pursuers of terrorists.

You demonstrate time and time again that you place service to your country ahead of personal gain and I am so very proud to command this organization.

I am tremendously grateful to your families for their support, and to your employers for their understanding of the challenge at hand.

We face 2003 together with focus, commitment, pride in our accomplishments of the past, and steadfast resolve for what lies ahead.

Freedom, Forever.

Military and civilian pay now accessible online

*Technical Sgt. Catherine S. Chacon
125th Financial Management Office*

Imagine "surfing the web" to find out the amount of pay you will receive and when it will deposit in your bank account.

The good news is you no longer need to imagine!

Members can now access their pay information on-line through "My Pay".

Members can go to the following website: <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp> and request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) that will be mailed to their home in about ten days.

Once the PIN is received, members may access their information from any computer with Internet access.

From the rave reviews that financial management is receiving, My Pay is definitely a big hit.

The website allows members to make certain changes to their payroll information and print copies of their Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) on-line.

Members can change tax withholding exemptions, direct deposit information, address, and Thrift Savings Plan information and review their pay. Soon, Travel Voucher information and W2's will be accessible for viewing and printing.

Due to the Privacy Act, a specific Power of Attorney must be on file in the 125th Financial Management Office before pay issues can be discussed with anyone other than the member.

Members, however, may elect to share their PIN with a family member when deployed or TDY so money matters will not be a mystery.

It is important to secure a PIN as soon as possible.

In the not too distant future, a LES will no longer be mailed to the members' home.

Once that happens, if a LES is needed, the member will need to print one from My Pay.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding MY Pay contact the 125 FW Military Pay office at DSN 641-7053/7061/7062 or 7063 (commercial prefix 741).



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

Colonel James A. Firth, commander of the 125th Fighter Wing passes the Det. 1 guide-on to Major William S. Bair during the change of command ceremony Nov. 1, 2002.

DET 1 CHANGE OF COMMAND

The leadership reins of Detachment 1, 125th Fighter Wing changed hands during a formal ceremony at Homestead Air Reserve Base in Homestead, Fla., Nov. 1, 2002.

Major William S. Bair took over the command of the busiest alert site in the United States from Lt. Col. David W. Woods who is preparing to retire after 20 years of military service.

Bair, who joined the Guard after completing 16 years of active duty service in 1999, was the Det 1 Operations officer before taking over for Woods.

Touted as the "World's Premier Air Defense Unit," Det. 1 is responsible for the air defense of southern Florida.

It is the busiest alert site in the United States flying over 1,700 sorties in the last three years.

In A Class All Their Own

125th members graduate from all-Guard BMT class

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas—Three Florida Air National Guard members, two from the 125th Fighter Wing, graduated Dec. 13, 2002 from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in all-Guard or mostly Guard flights.

Airmen Basic Amy L. Lounsbury, 19, Airman Basic Christopher L. Sickler, 18, and Airman Alfred L. Forbes, 20, graduated from one of the only classes to offer an all Guard class since the 80's.

Lounsbury and Forbes are both assigned to the 125th Aircraft Generation Squadron in Jacksonville, Fla., and Sickler is assigned to the 290th Joint Communications Squadron in



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Airman Basic Amy S. Lounsbury ties off a sand bag during warrior week at Lackland AFB, Texas. This was Lounsbury's fifth week of a six-week long all-Guard BMT class.

Tampa, Fla.

All three FANG members said that although they were in a separate class, the training instructors (TI) did not treat them any differently than other trainees.

Sometimes they felt like they were "under a microscope because they were all Guard" but that it really didn't make her feel that they were being singled out, said Lounsbury.

"At times they would say 'look there's the Guard flight,' but I think it was just part of the training," said Lounsbury.

"They were trying to 'get on us' like all TI's do," added Forbes.

Lounsbury joined the Guard after speaking with her pastor who just happens to be Lt. Col. Stephen Thompson, 125th Chaplain.

She almost joined the active duty army, but after talking with Chaplain Thompson and the recruiters, she realized that "life would be happier and she will go a lot further" with the Florida Air National Guard.

Forbes, who will be attending Florida Community College upon completing technical school, joined because he "wanted the military discipline the Guard can offer" and of course, the college

Continued...

money.

The opportunity to have an all-Guard class arose because of a 'no ship week' at Lackland, according to Chief Master Sgt. William Seiler, Guard liaison superintendent for BMT and technical schools at Lackland.

Air Education Training Command gave the 200 slots to the Guard during what originally was programmed to be a non-accession week.

Seiler said that because of the emphasis on the total force concept, guardmembers are treated no different than active duty trainees.

"The total force concept is one that we try and impress among the new troops, especially after the increase tempo since 9/11," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Galafaro, reserve liaison at Lackland, who was a TI for more than 14 years before becoming a training liaison.

"Trainees are trainees," stressed Galafaro. "Because they are Guard or Reserve only reinforces the emphasis on the total force concept."

In the end, the three newly-trained guardmembers don't think they were slighted by being in a class all their own.

"I don't think we've missed out on anything by being in an all-Guard class," said Sickler who joined mainly because he wanted to be a patriot.

"Our TIs were very good," said Sickler. "I learned that folding a t-shirt may not seem important, but in the big picture, they were teaching us to follow orders."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Denette Benton congratulates Airman Basic Christopher L. Sickler on completing the grueling part of BMT—warrior week. Benton is the senior enlisted adviser for the ANG and visited the all-Guard class during their 5th week of training.



U.S. Air Force photo by Yolanda S. Hunter

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Galafaro, an Air Force liaison officer for reservists, gives members of an Air National Guard basic military training flight their first-week briefing Nov. 6 at Lackland AFB, Texas. Photos and other unit paraphernalia of some of the 90 Guard wings across the nation decorate the walls.

In the Spotlight...

Master Sgt. Randall R. Crews



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Technical Sgt. Randall R. Crews adjusts the alignment on a Heads Up Display (HUD) unit F-15 fighter pilots use during flight.

Crews is the NCOIC for the Avionics Intermediate Shop (AIS).

He has more than 31 years of military experience, all with the FANG.

Crews lives in Lake Butler, Fla., with his wife of 16 years, Senior Master Sgt. Sharri J. Crews, NCOIC of the 125th Medical Squadron.

Crews is also the co-NCOIC for the base honor guard.

He began performing honor guard duties in 1998 after watching the members of the avionics shop perform rifle team duties for a fallen guardmember who passed away in 1998.

Since then, his efforts have been instrumental in the success of the base honor guard since its induction in 1998.

"He doesn't do his honor guard duties for the glory, rather, he does it for the tradition and for the families," said Maj. Michael A. Prinzi, a C-26 pilot here who assists with OIC duties for the base honor guard.

"He always says, 'I don't want a medal, I just want to do the duty' when he talks about the honor guard," said Prinzi.

"He really has a heart for it."

Technical Sgt. David M. Lowe

Lowe is a maintenance controller for the 125th Logistics Support Flight with more than 15 years of military service. He lives in Jacksonville, Fla., with his wife, Bridgette Lowe and their two children.

After leaving active duty in 1990, Lowe joined the FANG as a traditional guardsman until becoming a technician in 1995.

Aside from his primary duties with maintenance control, Lowe is co-NCOIC of the base honor guard.

"Dave has great devotion for the honor guard program like no other," said Maj. Richard E. Bittner, public affairs officer and OIC for the base honor guard.

"No matter how busy he is, he will always find a way to fill a Detail to ensure our deceased veterans are properly laid to rest with full military honors," said Bittner.

Although every funeral and color guard event brings Lowe great pride, there was one funeral in particular that Lowe remembers the most.

When a close friend of his, Master Sgt. Danny Boone, died in a car crash two years ago, Lowe participated in the honor guard proceedings. "It was tough to actually know the person you are honoring," said Lowe. "I always feel a sense of pride, but that day, it was almost overwhelming."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Technical Sgt. David M. Lowe uses the radio to dispatch fuel trucks for a training mission.

Welcome Farewell Promotions

Capt. Gary W. Mahanes, 125MEDS
2Lt Ameena Z. Burton, 125MEDS
TSgt Julie A. Fisher, 125CES
TSgt Daniel M. Wren, 125CF
SSgt Dawn A. Batten, 125LS
SSgt Jeffrey P. Dipianta, 125OSF
SSgt Dale W. Holbert, 125MS
SSgt Benjamin R. Mains, 125CES
SSgt Dayne J. Pritchard, 125MS
SSgt Keith Rowe, 125LS
SSgt Robert H. Schilder, 125AGS
SSgt Taylor L. Welch, 125MS
SrA Leo D. Cruz-Mendez, 125LS
SrA Timothy A. Drury, 125AGS
SrA Leonard M. Fillmore, 125SVF
SrA Frank P. Freihofer, 125AGS
SrA Jerome Johnson, 125CES
SrA Mark A. Maxwell, 125AGS
SrA Michael C. Nathan, 125MS
SrA Kevin W. Newport, 125MS
SrA Terry A. Schermerhorn, 125MS
A1C Julio A. Alvarado, 159FS
A1C Brian A. Encarnacion, 125MSF
A1C Victor C. Nelson, 125MS
A1C Richard A. Quiles, 125MS
A1C Timothy E. Rossetter, 125MS
AB Logan R. Musil, 125CES

Lt Col James W. Agee, 159FS
Lt Col David W. Coggin, 159FS
Lt Col Richard A. Phelps, 125FW
SMSgt Joe E. Calmes, 125AGS
SMSgt Robert H. Tanner, 125CF
TSgt John D. Bell, 125LS
TSgt Douglas L. Fox, 125LS
TSgt Ronald W. Higgs, 125AGS
TSgt Robert D. Mann, 125MS
TSgt Roberto V. Sitjar Jr., 125MS
TSgt Frederick S. Small, 125MS
SSgt Glenwood G. Outlaw Jr., 125CES
SSgt Lonnie R. Smith, 125CES



To Lt Col Major
Thomas B. Cucchi, 159FS
To Captain
Bryan D. Gillan, 159FS
Amy J. Dean, 125MEDS

To Chief Master Sergeant
Gary A. Carter, 125MSF

To Master Sergeant
Yancy B. Bowen, 125LS
Edward L. Graham Jr., 125MEDS
Paul J. Naydeck, 125MS
Jane M. Rogers, 125MSF

To Technical Sergeant
Jeffrey W. Armes, 125MS
James R. Gillooley, 125AGS
Dace A. Gordon, 125FW
Chad S. Reister, 125LS

To Staff Sergeant
Jeremy D. Hartley, 125AGS
Franklin Hastings, 125AGS
Alan R. Manges, 125SFS
Jason Odrzywolski, 125MS
Mitchell A. Roberts, 159FS
Ronald P. Showalter, 125MS
Edwin D. Velazquez, 125MS

To Senior Airman
Darin J. Belair, 125LS
Danielle D. Hines, 125OG
Kenneth D. A. Jackson, 125SFS
Jeremy K. Mixson, 125LS
David A. Stone, 125MS
Thomas J. Terrio, 125AGS
Jessie J. Viator, 125AGS

To Airman 1st Class
Kimberly A. King, 125SVF

To Airman
Alexandra D. Figueroa, 125MSF

Florida Air National Guard Retiree's Association

By Ernie Webster
President, Florida Air National Guard
Retiree's Association (FLANGRA)

Dear Retiree's and Spouses:

There is not much news on the retiree front. Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 27.

If you miss fellow retiree, Howard Batten, he and his wife, Betty, now live at 39348 650th St. Swatara, MN 55785, about 150 miles northwest of Minneapolis. They are enjoying a new home on land they purchased this summer and we wish them the best.

I hope each of you had a joyous Christmas Season and New Year. As the year progresses, and the possibility of conflict looms on the horizon, let us keep

the members of the Florida Air National Guard in our thoughts and prayers.

Many thanks to Frank Kozdras, Andy Miller, and Jack and Barbara Stuart for their support and help in making our meetings successful. You guys are the best and I really appreciate your help.

Let's all invite a fellow retiree to the next meeting and have a really big turnout.

Hope to see you there.

Ernie Webster
President FLANGRA



***The Eagle's Eye
Florida Air National Guard
125th Fighter Wing (ACC)
14300 Fang Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32218-7933***

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